

In his 19 years as Chief Justice of the highest Court in the land, Chief Justice Rehnquist never placed himself on a higher plane than his colleagues. To fellow Justices, his law clerks and secretaries, he was sensitive, humble, and ever respectful.

I am confident that the President's nominee to the Chief Justice's seat, Judge John Roberts, will bring the same dignity to the job and earn the same level of respect from his colleagues. Judge Roberts, after all, learned from the best. From 1980 to 1981, he was clerk to then Associate Justice Rehnquist.

Having come to know John Roberts these last few weeks, there is no doubt in my mind that he has the skill, the mind, the philosophy, and the temperament to lead the Supreme Court.

With his passing over the weekend, the Supreme Court loses one of the most prolific scholars and brilliant legal minds ever to sit on the Federal bench. His passing marks a sad day for America, but it is also a day to reflect on our great fortune to have had William Rehnquist in the service of our Nation.

For over 33 years, Chief Justice Rehnquist generously offered America his brilliant mind, his unwavering leadership, and his fair and impartial judgment. He was the embodiment of all of the ideal qualities of a judge, and his humility, wisdom, and superb managerial skills allowed him to become one of the most memorable, influential, and well-respected Supreme Court Justices in our history.

Many feel that history will remember the Chief for presiding over the Senate during impeachment trials, for his participation in landmark decisions, for his perseverance in fulfilling his duties through ailing health. I believe William Rehnquist will be most remembered for his magnificent leadership and management, his ability to build consensus, his compassion and respect for others, and his fair and impartial review of each and every case that came before the Court. The imprint of William Rehnquist's gavel will not fade fast. No, it is indelibly stamped upon the face of American history and the legacy of the law we uphold. America was blessed to have William Rehnquist as Chief Justice and today he enters the history books as one of the greatest Chief Justices ever to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.

May God bless William Rehnquist and may God bless the United States of America.

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

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#### HONORING CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM H. REHNQUIST

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was a high school student in a place called Basic

High School in Henderson, NV. I was a boy about 16 years old, and Mrs. Robinson came into the classroom. She was a part-time counselor and a full-time government teacher. She pulled me out of the class and she said, I have looked at all of your reports and you should go to law school.

I had never met a lawyer, had never even seen a courthouse, let alone been in one, but I accepted Mrs. Robinson's word that I should go to law school. From that day forward, that is what I set my mind to do. I came back here to go to law school. I was a full-time student at George Washington University, went to school in the daytime and worked as a Capitol policeman in the nighttime.

Still having never been in a courthouse, as a law student in an appellate practice course I was taking, the students were invited to go into the Supreme Court to listen to a Supreme Court argument. I can remember going there. The case the professor chose was not one that sounds very exciting. It certainly did not sound very exciting to me at the time. It did not involve some spectacular criminal case. It involved a case called *Baker v. Carr*. The first time I was ever in a courthouse I listened to one of the most important, significant Supreme Court arguments in the history of the country because those lawyers debating this case, these issues of law, were there to talk about the one man-one vote doctrine, which the U.S. Supreme Court a few months later, after having heard these arguments, decided that we in the United States would be bound by one man, one vote.

As a result of that, reapportionment took place in State legislatures and, of course, in the United States through the Federal courts. In the States where the legislature did not follow the one man-one vote rule, the courts took over.

As I look back, I was so fortunate to be able to have my first exposure to the law in the place where I later became a member of the Supreme Court bar. Having heard that case is something I will always remember.

I was a trial lawyer, and I have argued cases before the Nevada Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit, but I never argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. I wish I had had that opportunity.

Having heard *Baker v. Carr* those many years ago, I have never forgotten it. That is why it has been so pleasant for me to develop a personal relationship with some of the Supreme Court Justices, one of whom was the man whose funeral I will go to today at 2, William Rehnquist.

I said earlier and I will say again, I had a tour of duty as chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee and every Thursday there is an off-the-record discussion that takes place in the Senate with Democratic Senators, and we always try to come up with things that will interest the Senators.

I said to a number of my colleagues I wanted to invite William Rehnquist to come to the Democratic Policy luncheon and they said, no, he is a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, he is partisan, and he will not come anyway.

I picked up the telephone and in a matter of a minute or two he was on the line. I said, Mr. Justice, would you come to this policy luncheon? You will talk for 5 or 10 minutes, and we will ask questions.

Yes, I would like to do that.

He came over to the LBJ Room, one of the best luncheons we ever had. He answered all the questions. As I reflect on Justice Rehnquist coming to that Democratic Policy luncheon, the thing I remember more than anything else is how funny he was. He was a man physically large in stature with a biting sense of humor.

I felt so comfortable having him preside over the impeachment trial. That was also kind of an awkward time for me. I had just been selected as the assistant Democratic leader. I had this seat right here. I had never sat so close to what was going on before and I felt so uncomfortable sitting here. My first tour of duty in the Senate in that seat was as a Senator as part of the impeachment trial of President Clinton.

Of course, I visited with him, talked to him when he kept getting up. He had a bad back and he suffered a lot from physical pain for many years as a result of his back. He would get up every 20 minutes or so and stand and walk around his chair. I had a number of very nice, warm conversations with him at that time.

The conversation I will remember beyond all other conversations with the Chief Justice, there was so much speculation in the newspapers about he was sick and he was going to step down and would it be this Monday or the next Monday or when was it going to be. So in that I felt comfortable and had spoken to him on the telephone a number of occasions, I called him at his home and I said, I am sorry to bother you at home. He was not well. I said, the simple reason I have called you is to say, do not resign.

He said, I am not going to.

I am not going to talk about all that was said during the call, but I would say he told me he was not going to resign. I will always remember that telephone conversation with the Chief Justice of the United States. I am confident I did the right thing in calling him. I did not tell any of my colleagues. I did not tell my family. I did not tell anybody, but I picked up the telephone and I called him, and I am glad I did.

So I join with the distinguished majority leader in spreading on the record of this Senate the accolades for this good man. He was very politically conservative, so I understand. He served as a lawyer for 16 years after he graduated first in his class at Stanford Law School and I have a great amount of affection for that law school. One of my